

GILA NATIONAL FOREST



NEWS

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Supervisor's Office
3005 E. Camino del Bosque
Silver City
NM 88061

Loretta Benavidez
Fire Information Officer
(505) 388-8245 office
(505) 538-1426 cell
lbenavidez@fs.fed.us

Indian Peak Prescribed Fire in Progress – McKnight Project to Follow

(Silver City, New Mexico - February 28, 2006) The Black Range Ranger District was able to begin ignitions on the Indian Peaks Prescribed Fire Project on Tuesday, following a test burn. The project is located about 60 miles northwest of Truth or Consequences, New Mexico. Currently, the target for this year's implementation on this project is approximately 8,000 acres. The duration of the project should last between one to two weeks, depending on weather. Test burns will be conducted daily, prior to ignitions.

The Wilderness Ranger District will also be working on the McKnight Prescribed Fire project on Thursday and Friday of this week and possibly some days next week. The 800-acre project is located three miles northeast of the Wilderness Ranger Station in the Mimbres Valley and will likely be completed within three to four days.

Primary goals for these projects, following firefighter and public safety, include improving wildlife habitat, reducing fuel loading, and restoring fire to the landscape—allowing it to perform its natural role in the ecosystem. Areas near the projects may be impacted by some smoke, however, warm weather and light winds should help with the smoke dispersal.

For general information regarding fire activity on the Gila National Forest, please contact the fire information officer at 505-388-8245 or visit the website:
www.fs.fed.us/r3/gila.

###